THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) 15 February, 1994 was fixed for the repatriation of Chakmas from Tripura only. There is no proposal for repatriation of Chakmas from other parts of the country to Bangladesh.

(b) On 15, 17 and 19 February, 1994 a total of 1186 Chakma refugees have been repatriated. More are expected to follow.

(c) The Government of Bangladesh, have given a public commitment to take back the refugees in full safety and security.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Supply of Arms to Pakistan by China

258. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has given an assurance to Pakistan on arms supply;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what positive diplomatic steps Government propose to take for stopping China to supply arms to Pakistan so that tension in the sub-continent may not escalate further?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of China's continuing arms supplies to Pakistan. However, Government have no information to confirm that China has given an assurance to Pakistan on arms supply.

(c) In its discussions with China, Government have emphasised that the supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan beyond its legitimate requirements of defence, poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in South Asia. Government intends to reiterate its stand to the Chinese in the future also.

Permission to Foreign Companies for Fishing in Indian Waters

259. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have screened many foreign companies from USA and Europe who have been given permission to fish in our waters under various schemes;

(b) how many such European and American (USA) companies obtained permission;

(c) what projects have been cleared for their entry; and

(d) whether this will further increase the sickness of Indian deep-sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir. However, Government has given permission to Indian companies for collaboration with foreign companies for deep sea fishing in Indian waters, under the scheme of charter, joint ventures, leasing and test fishing.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Deep sea fishing vessels under charter, joint ventures, leasing and test fishing would concentrate on exploitation of non-shrimp resources and would not affect the operation of Indian owned deep sea fishing vessels, which concentrate mainly on exploitation of shrimp resources.

260. [*Transferred to the 1st March, 1994*